

REMARKS

(37 C.F.R. 1.116)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116, reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are presently pending before the Office. No claims have been canceled.

The Examiner's Action mailed November 6, 2003 (Paper No. 1027) and the references cited therein have been carefully studied by Applicants and the undersigned counsel. The arguments for reconsideration appearing herein and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants first incorporate by reference their arguments presented in the communication filed September 3, 2003.

Applicants further request reconsideration as Applicants sincerely believe that the Examiner has misunderstood the teachings of the Chen reference and as such, why Chen really does not teach the present invention.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the following arguments and comments provided by Applicants to the undersigned representative. Should the Examiner desire that the below arguments/comments be provided in the form of a Rule 132 Affidavit, please let

the undersigned know as soon as possible and Applicants will be requested to prepare the Affidavit in Japan.

1. Chen does not disclose the specific compounds disclosed in the present application.
2. Chen discloses that t-butyl methacrylate can be copolymerized with p-t-butoxycarbonylstyrene with mild acidolysis of the t-butoxycarbonyl group to form p-hydroxystyrene/t-butyl methacrylate copolymer(column 5, line 66-column 6 line 2).
3. Chen, however, does not disclose that by thermal control, acid-labile groups such as t-butyl group are partially cleaved to form p-hydroxystyrene/p-acid labile group protected hydroxystyrene/t-butyl methacrylate. That is, "thermal control" means that the step of eliminating and/or decomposing the group protecting the phenolic hydroxy group with acid reagent is carried out at below 60 degree. According to above process, the specified or desired amount of the group is eliminated or decomposed.
4. The narrow dispersed copolymers such as p-hydroxystyrene/p-acid labile group protected hydroxystyrene/t-butyl methacrylate, which are disclosed in the present application, could not be produced with the process specifically disclosed by Chen, and can only be produced with the process of the present invention.

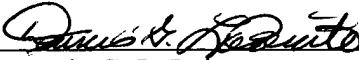
CONCLUSION

If based on the above arguments, the Examiner has a further suggestion for amending the claims so as to overcome the cited references, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

Dated: 12/22/03


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